

CBSE Class X English (Language and Literature) Set 2 (2/3/2)
Question paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total questions :11
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains THREE sections -
 - Section-A:** Reading Skills
 - Section-B:** Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section-C:** Literature Text Book
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

Section A

Reading Skills

1. Read the following text:

(1) Fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) are our most traditional sources for power generation. The energy that's produced from any source other than fossil fuels is termed as *alternative energy*. Between the two sources, using alternative energy has a lower environmental impact.

(2) We now know that alternative energy sources are the sources we use to supplement or even replace traditional energy sources used for power generation. You could almost say the same thing about renewable energy sources. But there is one subtle difference between the two. All renewable energy sources fall under the category of alternative energy sources, but it doesn't work the other way around.

(3) That's because renewable energy sources are derived from naturally replenished sources or processes of Earth, such as the sun, wind, and water. We refer to these resources as *renewable* or *sustainable* since, unlike fossil fuels, this naturally occurring continual renewal makes them inexhaustible. However, alternative energy sources are exhaustible, and therefore not renewable. That's the difference!

(4) The equipment necessary to harness energy from alternative sources used to be so expensive that it wasn't practical for consumer use. However, thanks to increased demand, more experienced energy developers, competitive supply chains, improved renewable technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency capabilities, that's no longer the case.

(5) When it comes to energy efficiency, the leader of the renewable energy pack is **wind energy**. Behind wind comes geothermal energy, hydropower, nuclear energy, and then solar power. Wind power serves both individuals and entire communities. It is versatile and can be produced from small-scale windmills or wind turbines on residential properties. It can also be produced from large-scale offshore wind farms in the ocean.

(6) We generate **geothermal power** by tapping into underground reservoirs of hot water and steam. Geothermal electricity can directly heat and cool buildings. Generated from the

energy of moving water, *hydroelectricity* (also known as hydropower) is produced when water behind a dam causes turbine blades to move as it flows through an intake. The turbine blades then rotate a generator to produce electricity that is sent to power homes.

(7) **Nuclear energy** is created in the form of heat through the fission process of atoms. The initial fission process creates energy and triggers a chain reaction that repeats the process and generates more energy. In nuclear power plants, the heat that fission produces creates steam. The steam then rotates a turbine, which leads to the production of electricity.

(8) **Solar power** most commonly refers to the use of solar cells to create energy. On a small scale, you may see a few solar panels on a house roof used to produce energy for just that one home. On a larger scale, you may see a solar farm used as a power plant to produce electricity for its consumers.

(i) Which of the following statements best describes the difference between renewable energy sources and alternate energy sources?

(A) Alternative energy sources are more expensive than renewable energy sources.

(B) Renewable energy sources are inexhaustible whereas alternate energy sources could be exhaustible.

(C) Alternative energy sources are as renewable as renewable energy sources.

(D) Renewable energy sources are exhaustible but alternative energy sources are inexhaustible.

Correct Answer: (B) Renewable energy sources are inexhaustible whereas alternate energy sources could be exhaustible.

Solution: Renewable energy sources are derived from naturally replenished sources such as the sun, wind, and water, making them inexhaustible. On the other hand, alternative energy sources include both renewable and non-renewable sources, which means some could be exhaustible.

Quick Tip

Understand the subtle differences between terms like *renewable* and *alternative* to identify the correct option.

(ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (4)? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

However, thanks to increased demand, more experienced energy developers, competitive supply chains, improved renewable technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency capabilities, that's no longer the case.

Solution: The tone of the writer is optimistic and positive. The passage mentions advancements in renewable technologies, increased demand, and competitive supply chains, which have made alternative energy more affordable and practical for consumers.

Quick Tip

When identifying tone, look for words or phrases that express the writer's attitude toward the subject.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately:

In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by the consumers because

Solution: In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by consumers because the equipment necessary to harness them was too expensive for practical use.

Quick Tip

Use context clues in the passage to complete sentences logically and accurately.

(iv) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a) to (e) below, identify two sets of antonyms:

- (a) generate and produce
- (b) exhaustible and inexhaustible
- (c) subtle and versatile
- (d) power and energy
- (e) sustainable and exhaustible

Correct Answer: (b) exhaustible and inexhaustible, (e) sustainable and exhaustible.

Solution: The words *exhaustible* and *inexhaustible* are clear antonyms, as one refers to something that can be used up while the other cannot. Similarly, *sustainable* and *exhaustible* are opposites because sustainability refers to long-term usage without depletion.

Quick Tip

When identifying antonyms, focus on contrasting meanings of words provided in the passage.

(v) Who is the leader of renewable energy pack and why?

Solution: Wind energy is the leader of the renewable energy pack because it is versatile, efficient, and can be produced on both small and large scales. It serves both individuals and entire communities effectively.

Quick Tip

Look for superlative words like “leader” or “most” in the passage to identify the key detail.

(vi) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the difference between geothermal electricity and hydroelectricity.

Solution: Geothermal electricity is generated by tapping underground reservoirs of hot water and steam. In contrast, hydroelectricity is produced by the energy of moving water, where the flow rotates turbine blades to generate electricity.

Quick Tip

Summarize technical concepts clearly by comparing their processes and sources.

(vii) What is the message conveyed by the passage?

- (A) Only those energy sources should be used which are renewable.
- (B) Wind energy is a renewable as well as inexhaustible source of energy.
- (C) There are plenty of renewable energy sources that can be used to replace traditional energy sources.
- (D) Alternative energy sources are the emerging energy trends and are still evolving.

Correct Answer: (C) There are plenty of renewable energy sources that can be used to replace traditional energy sources.

Solution: The passage emphasizes the importance of renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal as sustainable solutions to replace traditional fossil fuels. These sources are inexhaustible and environmentally friendly, making them ideal alternatives.

Quick Tip

When identifying the message, focus on key ideas or repeated themes in the passage.

(viii) State whether the following statement is *True* or *False* with reference to the given extract:

Hydroelectricity as a renewable energy source is used for residential as well as commercial purposes.

Solution: *True.* Hydroelectricity is generated by the energy of moving water, which powers turbines to produce electricity. This electricity is distributed for both residential and commercial purposes.

Quick Tip

For *True/False* questions, locate the exact information in the passage to verify accuracy.

2. Read the following text, an excerpt from a case study titled “Scouts and Guides Around the World.”

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(1) Many young people aged between 6 and 25 belong to the Scout movement. It is a worldwide organization, which was set up to help young people achieve their full potential as they grow up.

(2) The organization was established in 1907 by a British general called Robert Baden-Powell. While in the army, he wrote a publication about scouting (which means searching and keeping watch) and how to survive in the wild, called ‘Aids to Scouting’. He recalled how popular this was, and the result was another book, ‘Scouting for Boys’, which had less emphasis on the military. To test his ideas, he held a week-long camp for 21 boys from various schools in London, Poole and Bournemouth. This took place in August 1907, on Brownsea Island, in Southern England. These boys had the chance to enjoy outdoors, which became another of the movement’s objectives.

(3) The Scout Movement quickly got established in Europe. It then spread throughout the world, starting in Chile in 1909. To begin with, the focus was on boys aged 11 to 18. However, as the movement grew, it was clear that younger boys, older boys and girls all wanted to be involved too. Baden-Powell’s sister set up the Girl Guides in 1910, and in 1914 she started Rosebuds, later renamed Brownies, for younger girls. The movement’s intention to help young people play useful roles in society applies equally to girls and boys. By 2010, there were 32 million scouts, and by 2006, there were 10 million guides around the world, from a total of 216 different countries.

(4) 2007 marked 100 years of the Scout Movement, and events took place around the world

to celebrate this centenary. To mark the occasion, a colourful badge was produced for scouts to sew onto their uniforms or bags. The design included the official scout emblem, as well as the phrase, ‘one world one promise’, and images of doves and the globe.

(5) 2007 was also the 150th anniversary of Baden-Powell’s birth. To honour both occasions, a flame was lit at Baden-Powell’s grave in Nyeri. This is the place in Kenya where he spent the last few years of his life. The flame was then carried through several countries until it reached the UK.

Country	Membership	Population Induction	Scouting Induction	Guiding Induction
India	41,500,000	0.3%	1909	1911
Indonesia	17,100,000	7.2%	1912	1912
Philippines	21,500,000	2.2%	1910	1918
Thailand	13,00,000	1.9%	1911	1957
United States	75,00,000	2.4%	1910	1912

(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on the information given in paragraph 4:

‘Colourful badge was sewn on to the uniform and bags of the Scouts.’

Solution: The colourful badge was designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement. It symbolized the pride, unity, and achievements of scouts globally and marked a significant milestone.

Quick Tip

Commemorative symbols like badges often serve as reminders of significant milestones and achievements. They strengthen unity and pride among members.

(ii) From paragraph 1, we can infer that Scout Movement was set up ----.

Solution: The Scout Movement was set up to help young people achieve their full potential through outdoor activities, leadership development, and life skills. It aimed to guide them towards becoming responsible and active members of society.

Quick Tip

The Scout Movement focuses on character-building and preparing youth for the future.

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 4:

10 years : decade :: 100 years : -----

Solution: The correct word to complete the analogy is **centenary**.

10 years represents a **decade**, and **100 years** represents a **centenary**.

Quick Tip

A “centenary” or “centennial” is a celebration of a 100-year period.

(iv) After reading the passage, bring a contrast between the books ‘Aids to Scouting’ and ‘Scouting for Boys’.

Solution: The book ‘*Aids to Scouting*’ was primarily written for soldiers, teaching survival skills like tracking and observation for military use. In contrast, ‘*Scouting for Boys*’ was aimed at young boys, focusing on outdoor adventures, team spirit, and character development. The latter book laid the foundation for the Scout Movement.

Quick Tip

‘Aids to Scouting’ emphasized military survival skills, whereas ‘Scouting for Boys’ inspired youth through outdoor adventure and character-building.

(v) What does the writer mean by the following phrase?

‘One world one promise.’

Solution: The phrase “One world one promise” signifies the unity and shared values among scouts worldwide. Despite cultural and geographical differences, scouts across the globe uphold the same principles of service, loyalty, and respect, embodying a common promise to make the world a better place.

Quick Tip

This phrase emphasizes inclusivity, peace, and cooperation among scouts worldwide.

(vi) According to the chart, which country took maximum time to introduce ‘Guiding’ after ‘Scouting’? Choose your answer from the options given below:

- (A) India
- (B) Indonesia
- (C) Thailand
- (D) Philippines

Correct Answer: (C) Thailand

Solution: The chart shows that the Thailand introduced ‘Scouting’ in 1910 and ‘Guiding’ in 1940, indicating a delay of 30 years, which is the longest among the given options.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to data interpretation in charts, focusing on time gaps and comparisons.

(vii) List two reasons why a flame was lit at Baden-Powell’s grave in 2007.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

Solution: (a) The flame was lit to honour the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement.
(b) It also marked the 150th birth anniversary of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement.

Quick Tip

Commemorative events often highlight significant milestones and achievements to inspire future generations.

(viii) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option:

The establishment of Scout Movement from 1907 to 2006 showed _____ results.

- (A) uniform
- (B) encouraging
- (C) inconsistent
- (D) disappointing

Correct Answer: (B) encouraging

Solution: The Scout Movement grew tremendously over a century, involving millions of boys and girls across the world. The consistent increase in membership and its positive global impact make the results *encouraging*.

Quick Tip

Focus on words that reflect positive or negative outcomes when analyzing growth and achievements.

Section B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

GRAMMAR

3(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word:

This is in relation to the earlier discussion where it was decided that the school would _____ (organize) a summer camp for the students of grade 6 and 7.

Correct Answer: organize

Solution: The correct form of the word "organize" is used as it matches the subject "school" and aligns with the future tense structure "would + base form."

Quick Tip

When using modal verbs like "would," always follow it with the base form of the verb, not its past or continuous forms.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction:

The salad, prepare with fresh and crisp ingredients, is truly a summer delight.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

Solution:

Error	Correction
prepare	prepared

The verb "prepare" is incorrect and needs to be in its past participle form "prepared" to describe the salad properly in the sentence.

Quick Tip

Ensure subject-verb agreement and correct tense usage while editing sentences. Participles often follow nouns to form descriptive phrases.

(iii) Report Marie's question:

Marie's question: How has this volunteer work impacted your life?

Correct Answer: Marie asked how the volunteer work had impacted his/her life.

Solution: In reported speech, the present perfect "has impacted" changes to past perfect "had impacted" when the reporting verb is in the past.

Quick Tip

While converting direct speech into reported speech, align tenses carefully and adjust pronouns as per the context.

(iv) Complete the sentence:

Karen questioned Matt about _____ the chess club. He further added that chess was more than just a game; it was a mental battle.

Options:

- (A) what led to join him
- (B) what led him to join
- (C) why he was leading to join
- (D) what had led him joining

Correct Answer: (B) what led him to join

Solution: The phrase "what led him to join" is grammatically correct as it properly uses the infinitive "to join" after the verb "led" and aligns with the sentence structure.

Quick Tip

When reporting a question, ensure the verb aligns with the object or infinitive. Use "led to" or "caused to" in correct structures.

(v) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

Enclosed are the updated project guidelines and _____ (this / these / they) need to be shared with the entire project team to ensure compliance.

Correct Answer: these

Solution: The correct answer is "these" because it refers to the plural noun "guidelines" mentioned earlier in the sentence.

Quick Tip

When referring to plural nouns, use "these" for something nearby and "they" for subject pronouns.

(vi) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a restaurant's promotional material.

Our restaurant serves authentic Indian foods celebrating the diversity of Indian Cuisine.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Solution:

Error	Correction
foods	food

The word “foods” is incorrect because “food” is an uncountable noun when used in a general context like this.

Quick Tip

Use “food” to describe cuisine in general terms, while “foods” is used for specific types of food.

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

My pet dog are very playful.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	My	Our
(B)	pet	pets
(C)	are	is
(D)	playful	playing

Correct Answer: (C) are → is

Solution: The subject “dog” is singular; hence, the verb “are” is incorrect. The correct verb is “is.”

Quick Tip

Always ensure subject-verb agreement: Singular subjects take singular verbs, while plural subjects take plural verbs.

(viii) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Participating in the marathon for charity had me ____ humbled by the power of collective effort in driving meaningful change.

- (A) feeling
- (B) having felt
- (C) felt
- (D) feel

Correct Answer: (A) feeling

Solution: The verb phrase “had me ____ humbled” uses a present participle form to describe a continuing or resulting state caused by the action. “Feeling” fits best in this context, as it indicates the subject’s ongoing experience of being humbled.

Quick Tip

When using causative verbs like “had” or “got,” the present participle (verb+ing) is often used to show the effect or state caused by the action.

(ix) Report the dialogue between a vendor and his customer, by completing the sentence:

Vendor: You seem quite refreshed today, sir?

Customer: Yes, I just returned from a vacation.

The vendor, noticing a change in his customer’s demeanor, pointed out that he appeared refreshed. The customer confirmed this observation, mentioning that he _____.

Correct Answer: had just returned from a vacation

Solution: The phrase “had just returned” indicates the use of past perfect tense to describe an action that was recently completed. It connects the customer’s refreshed demeanor to his return from vacation.

Quick Tip

Use past perfect tense when referring to an action that occurred just before another past action or observation.

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option:

Great News!

Our school's basketball team ---- the district championship.

- (A) clinching
- (B) was clinched
- (C) clinched
- (D) had clinched

Correct Answer: (C) clinched

Solution: The verb “clinched” is in simple past tense, which is appropriate here to describe a completed action. The basketball team has already won the championship, so the past tense fits the sentence.

Quick Tip

Simple past tense is used to describe completed actions in the past with no reference to ongoing time.

(xi) Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling in the blank:

The ocean waves carry your dreams

The seagulls and sky ---- your presence.

The clouds sketch your portrait,

As you sail towards the horizon's expanse.

- (A) signal
- (B) signals
- (C) signalled
- (D) will signal

Correct Answer: (A) signal

Solution: The word “signal” is in the present simple tense, which is used to indicate actions that occur habitually or timelessly. In this poetic context, the subject “seagulls and sky” suggests an ongoing action.

Quick Tip

Present simple tense is often used for universal truths, habitual actions, and poetic expressions.

(xii) Identify the error and supply correction for the sentence:

The current marketing goal is focused on website traffics and conversions.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Solution:

Error	Correction
traffics	traffic

The word “traffics” is incorrect here because “traffic” is an uncountable noun when referring to website visits or data flow. Uncountable nouns do not take plural forms.

Quick Tip

When referring to online data, “traffic” is always singular and uncountable.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4(a) As a concerned parent, you have observed rash driving of the school bus drivers. You have also noted overcrowding of the buses, open doors and how the drivers barely stop for the students to board safely. You are Nikita/ Nikhil. Write a letter to the

Principal of the Swacha School providing details of what you have noticed over the past few weeks. Express your concern and suggest recommendations to avoid any mishap. You may include recommendations such as a security guard in the bus, speed limit, increase in the number of buses.

Solution :

Nikita

123, Green Colony

Jaipur

May 15, 2024

The Principal

Swacha School

Jaipur

Subject: Concern over rash driving and overcrowding of school buses

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent to draw your immediate attention to the growing safety issues related to the school bus service. Over the past few weeks, I have observed instances of rash driving by the school bus drivers, creating dangerous situations for children commuting to school.

Additionally, the issue of overcrowding in the buses is alarming. The students are seen standing close to the open doors, which is a major safety hazard. Drivers often fail to stop properly to allow children to board or alight safely, increasing the risk of accidents.

I urge you to kindly take the following measures to address this issue: 1. Deploy a security guard in every school bus to monitor student safety.

2. Implement a strict speed limit policy and ensure compliance through regular checks.

3. Increase the number of buses to reduce overcrowding.

4. Organize regular workshops for drivers to emphasize safe driving practices.

I trust you will take immediate action to avoid any unfortunate incident and ensure a safe and secure commute for all students.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nikita

Quick Tip

When writing a formal letter about safety issues, always include specific observations, suggest practical solutions, and maintain a polite tone to ensure the recipient takes immediate action.

4(b) In spite of repeated promises made by the authorities, potholes on the roads both internal and main streets have not been fixed. Poor, makeshift repair work was done which did not last beyond a week. This problem has led to many people having nasty falls and traffic congestion. Write a letter to your MLA drawing his attention to the problem. Remind him of his promise to repair the roads immediately to reduce inconvenience of the residents. You are Akshita / Aslam, Secretary RWA, Jaunaspuri.

Solution :

Akshita

Secretary, RWA

Jaunaspuri, Delhi

May 15, 2024

The MLA

Jaunaspuri Constituency

Delhi

Subject: Request for immediate repair of roads in Jaunaspuri area

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the residents of Jaunaspuri to bring to your kind attention the dire condition of the roads in our locality. Despite repeated assurances from the authorities, the issue of potholes and poor road maintenance remains unresolved. The main streets and internal roads are riddled with large potholes, which make commuting extremely difficult. The recent makeshift repairs barely lasted a week, worsening the

situation further. These poor road conditions have led to frequent accidents, nasty falls, and severe traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

The residents have been suffering from these inconveniences for months now. We request your immediate intervention to:

1. Initiate proper road repairs using durable materials.
2. Monitor the quality of repair work to ensure longevity.
3. Implement a regular road maintenance schedule to prevent future deterioration.

Sir/Madam, we hope you will honor your promise to improve the infrastructure and prioritize the repair work at the earliest. Your prompt action will help alleviate the residents' daily struggles.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

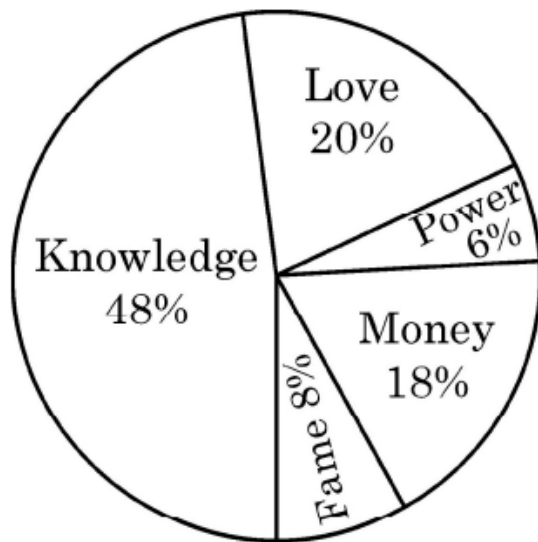
Akshita

Secretary, RWA Jaunaspuri

Quick Tip

In a complaint letter to authorities, focus on the problem's impact, provide clear solutions, and emphasize the urgency of the matter to prompt swift action.

5. (a) Riti / Ritik has to write a paragraph on the qualities required for success. He notices the chart given below and decides to use it as the basis of his writing. Using the pie chart alongwith your own ideas, write a paragraph for him in about 120 words on 'The Most Important Thing In Life'.



FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Riti / Ritik has to write a paragraph on the qualities required for success. He uses the following data given in the table and decides to use it as the basis of his writing. Using the data, along with your own ideas, write a paragraph for him in about **120 words** on

‘The Most Important Thing in Life’

S. No.	Factor	%
1	Knowledge	48%
2	Money	18%
3	Love	20%
4	Power	6%
5	Fame	8%

Solution: Success in life is not a product of luck or chance; it is achieved through consistent efforts, a focused mind, and a combination of essential qualities. The pie chart highlights the various factors contributing to success: **Knowledge (48%)**, **Love (20%)**, **Money (18%)**, **Fame (8%)**, and **Power (6%)**. Among these, **knowledge** is the most critical because it equips individuals with the skills, wisdom, and capabilities required to excel in life. It enables decision-making, problem-solving, and innovation, laying the foundation for progress in both personal and professional spheres. Without knowledge, success becomes short-lived and incomplete.

Love, which constitutes 20% of the chart, holds the second-highest position. It provides emotional support, strength, and motivation. A strong emotional foundation, surrounded by the love of family and friends, inspires individuals to overcome setbacks and pursue their goals relentlessly.

Money (18%) also plays a significant role. It provides the resources and opportunities needed to accomplish dreams. However, it must be used wisely and not viewed as the ultimate aim. Money facilitates access to education, healthcare, and other necessities but cannot buy lasting happiness or fulfillment.

Fame (8%) and **power** (6%) are comparatively less significant, yet they hold their value in the journey of success. Fame brings recognition and respect, while power enables individuals to make an impact and influence change. However, these must be handled responsibly; misuse of fame or power can be detrimental to one's success.

In conclusion, while knowledge emerges as the most significant factor, success is a combination of qualities like love, money, and power. Knowledge helps one acquire skills and grow, while love and emotional stability act as the backbone of success. Money, fame, and power add value when balanced appropriately. To achieve long-term success, individuals must strive to attain knowledge while maintaining emotional, financial, and moral equilibrium.

Quick Tip

Remember, knowledge provides the foundation for success, while emotional support and perseverance ensure it lasts. Balance is the key to achieving greatness in life.

(b) Read the following excerpt from a newspaper and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words based on it.

Plastics are not easy to dispose of as they are non-biodegradable. Over a period of time, the chemicals accumulate in the soil, and are eventually absorbed which contaminate the underground water. Even more frightening is the fact that there is currently no known technology for removing BPA and other leachates from the soil and water once they're there.

Answer:

Plastics have become a global menace due to their non-biodegradable nature. Unlike natural materials, they do not decompose but persist in the environment for centuries. Over time, chemicals like BPA (Bisphenol A) and leachates from plastics accumulate in the soil and percolate into underground water systems. This contamination severely impacts not only environmental health but also poses significant risks to human life, as polluted water can cause chronic diseases.

Current Challenges: The excerpt highlights a disturbing reality: there is currently no technology to reverse the damage caused by plastic waste once it has infiltrated the soil and water. This makes the problem even more critical, as it limits our ability to remediate contaminated areas.

Possible Solutions:

1. *Reduce Plastic Usage:* Promote eco-friendly, biodegradable alternatives such as paper, jute, or plant-based packaging.
2. *Implement Recycling Systems:* Governments must create efficient plastic recycling frameworks to minimize disposal.
3. *Promote Awareness:* Educating the public about the dangers of plastic and encouraging reduced use is essential.
4. *Innovative Research:* Increased funding for scientific research can lead to breakthroughs in removing plastic contaminants.

Conclusion: While plastics offer convenience, they come at a great cost to nature. To safeguard our planet, immediate action is needed through individual responsibility, stricter

regulations, and technological advancements. Only a collective effort can ensure a sustainable future.

Quick Tip

Reducing plastic use and promoting biodegradable alternatives are key solutions to combat environmental hazards caused by plastic waste.

Section C

LITERATURE

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two

(a) Tenth May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days, I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa’s first democratic non-racial government.

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) What do you infer from the following statement? *“The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African Soil.”*

Correct Answer: The statement highlights the global importance of the event.

Solution:

The inauguration symbolized the dawn of a new democratic era in South Africa. Leaders from various countries attended the event, marking it as a globally significant occasion. This gathering celebrated the end of apartheid and reflected international support for equality and justice.

Quick Tip

Focus on terms like "largest gathering" and "international leaders" to infer the importance and scale of the event.

(ii) Explain in about 40 words the effective shift from white supremacy to a rainbow gathering.

Correct Answer: The shift reflects peace, diversity, and inclusion.

Solution:

South Africa transitioned from decades of racial discrimination under white supremacy to becoming a unified, diverse nation. The term 'rainbow gathering' signifies peace, inclusiveness, and the coexistence of different races under the new democratic government led by Nelson Mandela.

Quick Tip

Connect historical terms like "white supremacy" with symbolic concepts like "rainbow gathering" to understand societal shifts.

(iii) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'pleasantly besieged' in the given sentence from the extract?

Correct Answer: *Overwhelmed in a positive way.*

Solution:

The phrase 'pleasantly besieged' can be replaced with "overwhelmed in a positive way." It captures the idea of being surrounded by dignitaries and world leaders, an experience that was both grand and enjoyable for the narrator.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to tone modifiers like "pleasantly," which add positivity to otherwise negative words like "besieged."

(iv) State True or False with reference to the given extract.

The past of the ‘amphitheatre’ had been a seat for theatrical performances.

Correct Answer: False

Solution:

The amphitheatre mentioned in the extract had historically been a symbol of white supremacy, not for theatrical performances. It became a site for celebrating unity and the establishment of South Africa’s democratic government.

Quick Tip

Always read between the lines and cross-check phrases from the passage for accuracy.

(b) Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. I thought and suddenly I had an idea. I wrote the three pages, Mr. Keesing had assigned me and was satisfied. I argued that talking is a students’ trait and that I would do my best to keep it under control, but that I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did if not more, and that there’s not much you can do about inherited traits.

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

(i) State any one inference about Anne from the given context.

“Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking.”

Correct Answer: Anne was clever and witty. She knew how to use arguments smartly to justify her actions, showing her intelligence and presence of mind.

Solution: Anne was not only articulate but also insightful. She cleverly turned the situation to her advantage by creating a logical argument for her talkative nature. This highlights her creativity and sharp reasoning skills.

Quick Tip

Highlight Anne's wit and ingenuity while inferring her cleverness.

(ii) In about 40 words, elaborate on the justification Anne gives for her talkative nature.

Correct Answer: Anne justified her talkative nature by calling it an inherited trait.

Solution: Anne defended her talkative nature by stating that talking is a student's characteristic. She humorously explained that her habit was inherited from her mother, who talked just as much, if not more. Her witty explanation satisfied Mr. Keesing.

Quick Tip

Focus on Anne's humorous justification and link it to inherited traits.

(iii) Which one of the following best describes the tone of the given extract?

- (A) derogatory
- (B) persuasive
- (C) nostalgic
- (D) cautionary

Correct Answer: (B) persuasive

Solution: The tone of the passage is persuasive because Anne argues convincingly to defend her habit of talking. She presents her reasons smartly and in a light-hearted manner, successfully persuading her teacher to accept her explanation.

Quick Tip

Identify the tone by understanding Anne's use of logical arguments and humor.

(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'ramble on' in the given sentence from the extract?

Correct Answer: ‘go on talking’

Solution: The phrase ‘ramble on’ means to talk continuously and at length without focus. The most appropriate substitute from the context would be ‘go on talking,’ which conveys the same meaning in a simpler form.

Quick Tip

Substitute phrases based on their contextual meaning.

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two

(a) He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

(i) Explain the contrast created by the words, ‘stalks’ and ‘few steps of his cage’.

Solution:

The word “stalks” suggests the tiger’s power, strength, and wild nature as he moves with grace and authority. In contrast, “few steps of his cage” highlights the confinement and restrictions imposed on him. This contrast creates a vivid image of the tiger’s suppressed rage and his helplessness in captivity.

Quick Tip

Focus on contrasts in literary imagery to emphasize themes like freedom and captivity.

(ii) Which of the following best describes the tiger’s feelings in the context?

- (A) anger
- (B) conflicted
- (C) pessimism
- (D) apprehension

Correct Answer: (A) anger

Solution:

The tiger's feelings reflect anger because he is trapped in a confined space. He stalks his cage in quiet rage, indicating his frustration and aggression at being denied his freedom.

Quick Tip

Focus on key phrases like “quiet rage” to understand the emotional tone of the text.

(iii) Comment in about 40 words on the poet's use of imagery in the above extract.

Solution:

The poet uses powerful imagery to depict the tiger's situation. The phrases “vivid stripes” and “pads of velvet quiet” convey the tiger's majestic beauty, while “few steps of his cage” and “quiet rage” highlight his confinement and anger.

Quick Tip

Imagery appeals to senses and emotions. Analyze descriptive words to uncover deeper meanings.

(iv) Which word in the stanza means the same as ‘clear and bright’?

Correct Answer: vivid

Solution:

The word “vivid” in the line “He stalks in his vivid stripes” means clear, bright, and colorful. It emphasizes the striking appearance of the tiger's stripes.

Quick Tip

Synonyms are often embedded in descriptive words. Look for context clues within the stanza.

*(b) And no one buys a ball back, Money is external
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes
The epistemology of loss, how to standup.*

(i) When the poet says that “no one buys a ball back”, what does he refer to in the context of the poem?

Solution:

The phrase “no one buys a ball back” symbolizes the inevitability of loss. The poet refers to how some losses, like the boy’s ball, cannot be recovered with money, teaching the boy an important life lesson about acceptance and resilience.

Quick Tip

Symbolism is a key device in poetry. Relate objects like “ball” to abstract ideas like loss.

(ii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate option:

The lines from the poem tell us that the boy is experiencing -----.

- (A) distress
- (B) terror
- (C) realisation
- (D) elation

Correct Answer: (C) realisation

Solution:

Based on the context of the sentence, the boy is likely reflecting on something important or coming to terms with a realization. “Realisation” fits the context better than the other options such as distress, terror, or elation, which express stronger emotions that don’t align as well with a reflective moment.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to emotional clues like “desperate eyes” to determine the tone.

(iii) What is the significance of the term “desperate” used to describe the boy’s eyes in the poem, and how does it contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem?

Solution:

The word “desperate” describes the boy’s emotional state as he faces the reality of loss. It highlights his helplessness and inability to control the situation. This contributes to the somber and reflective tone of the poem, emphasizing themes of growing up and learning about loss.

Quick Tip

Analyze descriptive adjectives like “desperate” to understand emotional depth in poetry.

(iv) Identify and discuss the poet’s use of metaphor in the poem “The Ball Poem”.

Solution:

The poet uses the ball as a metaphor for life’s possessions and losses. The loss of the ball represents the inevitable losses we face in life. It teaches the boy a deeper lesson about letting go, resilience, and accepting change.

Quick Tip

Metaphors often convey abstract ideas. Relate objects like “ball” to life experiences or lessons.

8. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 40-50 words each.

(i) Explain the irony in the chapter, “A Letter to God”.

Solution:

The irony in “A Letter to God” is that Lencho, a poor farmer with immense faith in God, prays for help and receives money from the post office employees who collect funds to help him. Ironically, Lencho assumes the employees are thieves and accuses them of stealing part of the money. This highlights Lencho’s unwavering trust in God but lack of faith in humans.

Quick Tip

Irony often involves a twist between expectation and reality. Focus on the contradiction in Lencho's perception and the actions of the post office employees.

(ii) “During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide.” What does this statement imply in relation to the character of the baker? (Glimpses of India)

Solution:

The baker in Goa was a significant figure in the lives of children. He was not only a provider of bread but also a beloved friend and companion. Children eagerly awaited his arrival for the sweet bread-bangles. The baker symbolized joy, tradition, and an integral part of their lives, highlighting his strong cultural and emotional connection with the community.

Quick Tip

Focus on the role of traditional figures like bakers in fostering joy and community bonding. Highlight their cultural significance.

(iii) It is our attitude towards a situation that makes it positive or negative. Do you agree with it? Express your views with reference to the poem ‘Dust of Snow’.

Solution:

Yes, the poem “Dust of Snow” by Robert Frost illustrates how attitude determines our response to situations. The poet initially feels gloomy, but a small incident—snow falling from a crow—changes his mood positively. This reflects how even minor events can transform negativity into hope if perceived with an open mind.

Quick Tip

Focus on how perspective influences outcomes. A positive mindset can transform small moments into meaningful experiences.

(iv) Belinda and other animals have been described as brave. But on seeing the pirate they behaved in a cowardly way. How did they react? (A Tale of Custard, The Dragon)

Solution:

In “A Tale of Custard, The Dragon,” Belinda and her pets boast of their bravery. However, when the pirate arrives, they panic and hide. Ink the cat, Blink the mouse, and Mustard the dog all flee in fear. Surprisingly, Custard, who was always mocked for being cowardly, bravely fights and defeats the pirate, proving his true courage.

Quick Tip

Focus on contrasts in character behavior. Highlight how Custard’s actions defy expectations and reveal the theme of hidden bravery.

(v) Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull ‘exhausted by the strange exercise’? Justify the given statement with reference to baby seagull’s fear. (His First Flight)

Solution:

The young seagull was afraid to fly because he feared falling. Despite his siblings flying confidently, his lack of self-belief held him back. When hunger forced him to take his first flight, the physical effort and emotional strain left him “exhausted by the strange exercise.” This highlights how overcoming fear can be both challenging and liberating.

Quick Tip

Overcoming fear requires courage and effort. Focus on the emotional and physical challenges the seagull faces in taking its first flight.

9. Answer any TWO out of the three questions in 40-50 words each.

(i) Do you think Bholi could have confidently refused to marry Bishamber if she wasn’t educated? Give reasons. (Bholi)

Solution:

Bholi's education played a pivotal role in shaping her confidence and self-respect. Initially timid and neglected, education transformed her into a courageous individual. It taught her the importance of equality and dignity. When Bishamber insulted her father and demanded dowry, Bholi refused to marry him. Her education empowered her to reject societal pressure and stand up for herself, even if it meant staying unmarried. Without education, Bholi would have lacked the confidence to oppose such injustice, remaining trapped in societal norms.

Quick Tip

Education is the key to empowerment. It equips individuals with the confidence to challenge unfair practices and uphold their dignity.

(ii) Who was Henry? What role did he play in Ausable's plan? (The Midnight Visitor)**Solution:**

Henry, though entirely fictional, was an integral part of Ausable's ingenious strategy to outwit Max. When Max threatened Ausable with a gun, Ausable remained calm and spun a story about an upcoming delivery of drinks by a waiter named Henry. This quick thinking created confusion and panic in Max's mind. Coupled with the fabricated balcony story, Henry's "arrival" added pressure, forcing Max to act impulsively. Thinking Henry might discover him, Max leaped to his doom. Ausable's presence of mind, combined with his fictitious story, effectively neutralized the situation without any physical confrontation.

Quick Tip

Quick wit and calm thinking in moments of crisis can often outsmart even the most dangerous opponents.

(iii) "Richie was my whole life after his father died," said Richard's mother. Describe Richard Ebright's relationship with his mother. (The Making of a Scientist)**Solution:**

Richard Ebright's relationship with his mother was exceptional and played a decisive role in

his success. After his father's death, she became both his emotional anchor and intellectual mentor. She recognized his potential early on and provided an environment conducive to learning. She encouraged Richard to read extensively and supported his love for science by providing him with essential books and resources. Their relationship was marked by trust, communication, and mutual respect. Richard's mother motivated him to participate in scientific competitions, helping him become disciplined and curious. Her dedication made her the cornerstone of his journey to becoming a renowned scientist.

Quick Tip

A nurturing environment and parental involvement can profoundly impact a child's intellectual growth and future achievements.

10. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 100-120 words.

(a) Compare and contrast the lives of Valli and the other character, who displayed similar character traits.

Compare and contrast the lives of Valli and the other character, that you have chosen from the text of Two Stories about Flying. You may begin this way. The characters who are fearless and determined from two texts are Valli and —.

(Reference: Madam Rides a Bus & Two Stories about Flying)

Solution:

Valli, from "*Madam Rides a Bus*", and the young seagull, from "*Two Stories about Flying*", share remarkable traits of courage, determination, and fearlessness. Valli, despite her young age, was sensitive and ambitious. She undertook a solo bus journey, driven by her strong desire to explore the world. Her determination overcame the fear of traveling alone. She displayed maturity beyond her years by saving money for the trip.

Similarly, the young seagull was afraid to fly initially. However, driven by hunger and the need to survive, he overcame his fear and successfully took his first flight. His courage marked the beginning of independence.

Both characters demonstrate that bravery and self-reliance help overcome challenges. Valli and the seagull inspire us to conquer fear and embrace growth.

Quick Tip

Courage often stems from a strong will. Challenges become stepping stones when faced with determination.

(b) Based on your understanding of the Play, ‘The Proposal’, what do you think of relationships? Prepare a speech draft on relationships based on Natalya’s and Anne Frank’s characters. You may begin this way. Good morning everyone. Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I’d like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts You may end this way To conclude, I’d like to say that Thank you, (Reference: The Proposal from the Diary of Anne Frank)

Solution:

Good morning everyone.

Today, I’d like to talk about relationships. Relationships are the foundation of human existence, and both Natalya and Anne Frank’s lives provide insights into this vital aspect of life.

In “*The Proposal*”, Natalya’s relationship with Lomov portrays relationships driven by mutual need and societal expectations. Despite petty arguments and pride, their bond reflects practicality over emotion. This highlights how relationships are often shaped by circumstances rather than feelings.

In contrast, Anne Frank’s diary reflects her loving and hopeful nature. Her relationship with her family, especially her father, demonstrates understanding and emotional support during adversity. Through Anne, we see how love and trust sustain relationships even in dire situations.

To conclude, relationships thrive on understanding, patience, and emotional connection. We must nurture them with care to make them meaningful.

Quick Tip

Strong relationships are built on mutual respect, emotional understanding, and the ability to overcome differences.

11. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 100-120 words.

(a) Griffin’s brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Give reasons from the text to support your answer. (Reference: Footprints Without Feet)

Solution:

Griffin, the protagonist of “*Footprints Without Feet*”, is depicted as a brilliant scientist who discovers the formula for invisibility. His scientific achievement is remarkable, proving his intellect and innovation. However, Griffin’s brilliance is overshadowed by his darker traits. Griffin misuses his scientific power for personal gain and unethical acts. After becoming invisible, he indulges in criminal activities such as theft, breaking into shops, and harassing people. He burns down his landlord’s house in anger, showing his violent and impulsive nature. Instead of using his discovery for the benefit of humanity, Griffin turns into a fugitive and a menace to society.

Thus, Griffin’s genius as a scientist fades because of his greed, lack of morals, and inability to control his darker instincts. His story serves as a warning about how brilliance, when devoid of ethics, can lead to downfall.

Quick Tip

True brilliance lies not just in talent but in using it responsibly for the good of society.

(b) Hari Singh says – “He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.” Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it all. Elaborate based on your reading of *The Thief’s Story*.

Solution:

In “*The Thief’s Story*”, Anil’s response to Hari Singh’s betrayal showcases maturity, wisdom, and kindness. Hari Singh steals Anil’s money but later feels guilty and returns it. Anil, despite realizing the theft, does not confront Hari or show any sign of disappointment. Instead, he treats Hari with the same trust and compassion as before.

By not addressing the incident directly, Anil teaches Hari Singh a profound lesson. His silence conveys forgiveness and understanding, inspiring Hari to introspect and change his

ways. Anil's approach shows that trust and kindness can have a greater impact than punishment. This subtle and gentle method transforms Hari Singh and instills in him a sense of responsibility.

Anil's silent response proves that addressing mistakes with empathy and trust can reform even the most hardened individuals.

Quick Tip

Sometimes, silence and kindness speak louder than words. Forgiveness has the power to inspire positive change.
